

REMARKS

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 because the Amendment places the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein, and does not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration as the amendments amplify these issues previously discussed throughout prosecution. Entry of the Amendment is thus respectfully requested.

Claims 6 and 11 are pending and indicated allowed by the Examiner. Without conceding the propriety of the rejection, Applicants have canceled claims 1, 2, 16 and 17 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein in order to expedite prosecution.

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections in view of the following remarks.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 2, 16, and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by JP 06-145540 taken in view of the evidence given in Ohyama (U.S. Patent No. 5,359,075).

Without conceding the propriety of the rejection, Applicants have canceled claims 1, 2, 16 and 17 in order to expedite prosecution. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection has been obviated and request withdrawal thereof.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, reconsideration of the claims and allowance of the subject application is earnestly solicited. In the event that there are any questions relating to this application, it would be appreciated if the Examiner would telephone the undersigned attorney concerning such questions so that prosecution of this application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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